have pursued a murderous campaign against the Kashmiri Pandits in order to establish an Islamic State;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In a hearing of the Asia Pacific Sub-Committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 9, 1995, Congressman Sherrod Brown (Democrat—Ohio) raised the issue of the plight of Kashmiri Pandits who had "suffered so greatly over the years—had been relegated in many ways to refuge status in their own homeland—their problems were more than just being refugees their problems were also human rights abuses". He queried as to why the had not found mention in the State Department's Human Rights report of 1994.

Assistant Secretary Raphel in her response explained that the Kashmiri Pandits were Hindus living in Kashmir, many of whom had left in the early days of the insurgency in 1989-90. Many of them had absorbed themselves into other states in the Indian Union but many were still living in camps in Jammu "in appalling conditions as refugee-camps tend to have". She maintained that the State Department Human Rights report was not a refugee report or an internally displaced persons repor but that the US Administration "would be happy to take under advisement the idea of making a reference to them".

Government have noted that members of the US Congress have begun to appreciate the plight of different secions of the Kashmiri population affected by Pakistan-supported terrorism in Kashmir, and hope that the US Administration would use its influence with Pakistan to bring about an end to such support.

Supply to arms to J and K Militants by Pakistan

431. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in 'Hindustan Times' dated the 10th February, 1995 that US Government is aware of the arms supply by Pakistan to militants operating in J and K;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is in contrary the assurance given by Pak earlier.

(c) whether it is also a fact that some Kashmir leaders have also gone to Saudi Arabia to collect funds for their secessionist activities in that State; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to take or have already taken in these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan's support to terrorism continues unabated despite assurances to the contrary to the Government of India and to the international community.

(c) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(d) Government have strongly urged Pakistan on several occasions and at all levels to stop its support to subversion and terrorism. Government have also apprised the international community of the dangers inherent in the trans-border terrorism. Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to counter terrorists, and will remain vigilant about material, financial or any other support extended from outside quarters in sustenance of activities directed against India.

पटना के पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में भ्रष्टाचार

432. श्री आस मोहम्मद : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पटना के पासपोर्ट कार्यालय में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार के संबंध में 1-1-94 से 31-10-94 तक कोई शिकायतें मिली हैं;